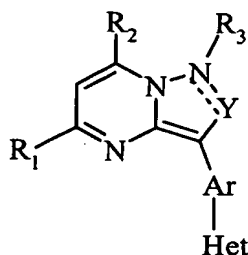


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A compound having the following structure:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, ester, solvate, stereoisomer, or prodrug thereof,
wherein:

“--” represents the second bond of an optional double bond;

R₁ is hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, -NH₂, or halogen;

R₂ is -NR₇R₈ or -OR₁₀;

R₃ is null, hydrogen, or alkyl;

Y is =(CR₄)- or -(C=O)-;

R₄ is hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, thioalkyl, alkylsulfinyl, or alkylsulfonyl;

Ar is phenyl, phenyl optionally substituted with 1 or 2 R₅, pyridyl, or pyridyl optionally substituted with 1 or 2 R₅;

R₅ at each occurrence is alkyl, substituted alkyl, alkoxy, substituted alkoxy, cyano, halogen, alkylsulfinyl, or alkylsulfonyl;

Het is heteroaryl optionally substituted with 1 or 2 R₆;

R₆ at each occurrence is alkyl, substituted alkyl, alkoxy, substituted alkoxy, cyano, halogen, -C(O)OR₁₁, or hydroxy;

R₇ is hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, heterocycle, substituted heterocycle, heterocyclealkyl, substituted heterocyclealkyl, alkoxyalkyl, substituted alkoxyalkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, aryloxyalkyl, substituted aryloxyalkyl, arylalkyl, or substituted arylalkyl;

R₈ is alkyl, substituted alkyl, heterocycle, substituted heterocycle, heterocyclealkyl, substituted heterocyclealkyl, alkoxyalkyl, substituted alkoxyalkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, aryloxyalkyl, substituted aryloxyalkyl, arylalkyl, or substituted arylalkyl; or

R₇ and R₈, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, form a heterocycle which is optionally substituted by 1, 2, or 3 R₉;

R₉ at each occurrence is hydroxy, alkylsulfonyl, alkylsulfinyl, -CH₂-OC(O)R₁₃, -C(O)OR₁₁, -C(O)NR₁₁R₁₂, alkyl, substituted alkyl, alkoxy, substituted alkoxy, arylalkyl, substituted arylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, substituted heteroarylalkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, heterocycle, substituted heterocycle, alkoxyalkyl, or substituted alkoxyalkyl;

R₁₀ is alkyl, substituted alkyl, arylalkyl, substituted arylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, substituted heteroarylalkyl, aryloxyalkyl, or substituted aryloxyalkyl;

R₁₁ and R₁₂ are the same or different and independently hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, heterocycle, substituted heterocycle, heterocyclealkyl, substituted heterocyclealkyl, alkoxyalkyl, substituted alkoxyalkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, aryloxyalkyl, substituted aryloxyalkyl, arylalkyl, or substituted arylalkyl; and

R₁₃ is alkyl, substituted alkyl, heterocycle, substituted heterocycle, alkoxy, substituted alkoxy.

2. The compound of claim 1 wherein R₁ is hydrogen, alkyl, or substituted alkyl.
3. The compound of claim 1 wherein R₂ is -NR₇R₈.
4. The compound of claim 3 wherein R₇ and R₈ together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a heterocycle substituted by 1 R₉.
5. The compound of claim 4 where R₉ is hydroxy, alkylsulfonyl, alkylsulfinyl, alkyl, substituted alkyl, arylalkyl, substituted arylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, substituted heteroarylalkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, heterocycle, substituted heterocycle, alkoxyalkyl, or substituted alkoxyalkyl.
6. The compound of claim 1 wherein R₃ is null.
7. The compound of claim 6 wherein Y is =(CR₄)-.
8. The compound of claim 7 wherein R₄ is hydrogen, alkyl, or substituted alkyl.
9. The compound of claim 1 wherein R₃ is hydrogen or alkyl.
10. The compound of claim 9 wherein Y is -(C=O)-.
11. The compound of claim 1 wherein Ar is substituted by 1 R₅.

12. The compound of claim 11 wherein R_5 is alkyl, substituted alkyl, alkoxy, substituted alkoxy, cyano, or halogen.
13. The compound of claim 1 wherein Het is substituted by 1 R_6 .
14. The compound of claim 13 wherein R_6 is alkyl, substituted alkyl, alkoxy, substituted alkoxy, cyano, or halogen.
15. The compound of claim 1 wherein R_2 is $-OR_{10}$.
16. The compound of claim 3 wherein Y is $=(CR_4)-$.
17. The compound of claim 16 wherein R_5 is alkyl, substituted alkyl, alkoxy, or substituted alkoxy.
18. The compound of claim 17 wherein R_8 is alkyl, substituted alkyl, heteroarylalkyl, substituted heteroarylalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, substituted alkoxyalkyl, aryloxyalkyl, substituted aryloxyalkyl, arylalkyl, or substituted arylalkyl.
19. The compound of claim 18 wherein R_7 is hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, or alkoxyalkyl.
20. A composition comprising a compound of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.
21. A method for treating a disorder manifesting hypersecretion of CRF in a mammal comprising administering to the animal an effective amount of the pharmaceutical composition of claim 20.
22. The method of claim 21 wherein the disorder is stroke.
23. The method of claim 21 wherein the disorder is depression.

24. The method of claim 21 wherein the disorder is obsessive-compulsive disorder.
25. The method of claim 21 wherein the disorder is irritable bowel syndrome.